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Looking behind the Cabinet shifts

By a staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

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The men who have President Ford's ear most often have the most power. That theory explains the strong interest here in how much time Mr. Ford will give to his shuffled team.

The President is known to be considering a proposal for spending one hour a week alone with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, one hour with Secretary of Defense-designate Donald Rumsfeld, and a third hour jointly with CIA director-designate George Bush, new National Security Council chairman Gen. Brent Scowcroft, and Messrs. Kissinger and Rumsfeld.

Observers here believe in any case the President will have to see General Scow-crost nearly every day to keep himself informed on foreign affairs developments.

Some sources here caution that even if the President did decide to spend less time with Dr. Kissinger than in the past, it would not mean that the Secretary of State's influence would be reduced. Regardless of the time the two men spend together, says one source, Dr. Kissinger will continue to be the President's principal spokesman on foreign affairs. His ability to be such a spokesman grows out of his confidence that he has the President's support.